

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EA-07 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02
SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 ACDA-07 L-03
ARA-06 EUR-12 NEA-10 /102 W
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R 290828Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY DAKAR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9276
INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
USMISSION USUN
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAKAR 2951

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, KS, SG
SUBJECT: RELATIONS BETWEEN SENEGAL AND REPUBLIC OF KOREA (ROK)

REF: A) STATE 95389, B) SEOUL 2785, C) DAKAR 1984, D) SEOUL 3161

1. SUMMARY: SOUTH KOREAN LEGISLATOR HAS DEPARTED DAKAR AFTER VISIT TO PROMOTE BILATERAL PARLIAMENTARY COOPERATION; SENEGALESE PROMISED TO RESPOND ON BASIS PARALLELING THEIR NATIONAL ASSEMBLY'S TIES TO NORTH KOREA. ROK AMBASSADOR CHI BELIEVES RECENT LETTER FROM PRESIDENT SENGHOR TO PRESIDENT PARK MARKS IMPROVEMENT IN SENEGAL'S POSITION ON KOREA, AND SAYS HIS RECEPTION IN DAKAR IS INCREASINGLY FRIENDLY. HE SEES SENEGAL'S FOREIGN MINISTER AND UN PERMREP AS PRIMARY OBSTACLES TO FURTHER PROGRESS. CHI BELIEVES THAT NORTH KOREAN ERRORS IN MAURITANIA AND WESTERN SAHARA AND SENGHOR'S UNHAPPINESS WITH CURRENT SOVIET ROLE IN AFRICA MAY BE LEADING SENEGALESE PRESIDENT TO REEVALUATE HIS PREVIOUS POSITIVE VIEW OF NORTH KOREA. CHI HOPES TO ADD SEOUL TO POSSIBLE TRIP TO JAPAN BY SENGHOR IN 1979. END SUMMARY.

2. FAEK HAR KIM, PRESIDENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE OF SOUTH
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KOREAN NATIONAL ASSEMBLY COMPLETED VISIT TO DAKAR ON APRIL 24. PRESS INDICATED HE WAS IN MIDST OF TWO-MONTH TOUR WHICH HAD ALREADY TAKEN HIM TO US, MEXICO AND BRAZIL AND WOULD INCLUDE FURTHER STOPS IN NIGERIA, KENYA, FRANCE, WEST GERMANY, BAHRAIN, SAUDI ARABIA, AFGHANISTAN AND JAPAN. ACCORDING TO EMBOFF, KIM MET WITH MEMBERS OF SENEGALESE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY TO DISCUSS ESTABLISHMENT OF SOUTH KOREAN "FRIENDSHIP GROUP" OF SENEGALESE

PARLIAMENTARIANS. HE SAID THAT GROUP HAD NOT YET BEEN FORMALLY CONSTITUTED, BUT THAT SENEGALESE HAD SUGGESTED THAT 15 DEPUTIES WOULD BE DESIGNATED FOR ROK GROUP AND 15 FOR NORTH KOREAN (DPRK) COUNTERPART, TO MAINTAIN STRICT IMPARTIALITY. NORTH KOREANS HAVE BEEN ACTIVE IN PARLIAMENTARY COOPERATION FOR SEVERAL YEARS, AND SENEGALESE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY MEMBERS HAVE VISITED PYONGYANG.

3. IN CALL ON APRIL 27, ROK AMBASSADOR CHI SHOWED ME LETTER PRESIDENT SENGHOR SENT TO PRESIDENT PARK ON FEBRUARY 28, 1977 FOLLOWING VISIT TO DAKAR OF FORMER PRIME MINISTER JONG PIL KIM AS SPECIAL EMISSARY (DAKAR 1528). CHI SAID HE FELT LETTER MARKED SLIGHT IMPROVEMENT IN SENEGAL'S POSITION VIS A VIS ROK IN THAT IT A) RECOGNIZED RIGHT OF EXISTENCE OF BOTH ROK AND DPRK AS INDEPENDENT ENTITIES EMANATING FROM FORMER SINGLE KOREAN STATE; B) SUPPORTED THE RIGHT OF BOTH KOREAS TO SEEK ADMISSION TO UN; C) FAVORED EFFORTS FOR REUNIFICATION ON BASIS OF PEACEFUL NEGOTIATION.

4. CHI CONSIDERED HIS RECEPTION BY SENEGALESE GOVERNMENT (GOS) TO BE INCREASINGLY FRIENDLY. IMPORTANT POINT OF DIFFICULTY REMAINED WITH FOREIGN MINISTER ASSANE SECK WHO SEEMED TO BE STRONGLY INFLUENCED BY GOS UN PERMREP MEDOUNE FALL. FALL RESISTED APPLYING SENGHOR'S POLICY OF DYNAMIC COMPROMISE IN MANNER UNFAVORABLE TO HIS DPRK /BIAS. AGAINST THIS BACKGROUND, CHI SAID WHEN HE DISCUSSED SENGHOR-PARK LETTER WITH SENEGALESE FOREIGN MINISTER, SECK SAID HE FELT GOS COULD SUPPORT UN MEMBERSHIP ONLY IF BOTH KOREAS APPLIED AT SAME TIME; IF ROK ALONE APPLIED SENEGAL WOULD NOT GO ALONG. CHI HAD HEARD REPORTS THAT MEDOUNE FALL WAS DISPLEASED WITH SENGHOR-PARK LETTER, AND HAD REQUESTED CONFIDENTIAL

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CONSULTATIONS IN DAKAR ON SUBJECT BUT SENGHOR HAD SAID NO. FALL REPORTEDLY CLAIMS SENEGAL WOULD LOSE FACE IF IT SUBSTANTIALLY CHANGED ITS POSTURE ON KOREA IN UN COUNCILS.

5. CHI ESTIMATED THAT SENGHOR'S UNHAPPINESS WITH CURRENT SOVIET ROLE IN AFRICA AND DPRK ERRORS IN MAURITANIA AND WESTERN SAHARA MAY BE LEADING SENGHOR TO REEVALUATION OF GENERALLY POSITIVE VIEW OF NORTH KOREA ACQUIRED DURING HIS 1974 VISIT.

6. CHI REGRETTED LACK OF SUCCESS IN HIS EFFORTS TO GET SENEGALESE PRESIDENT, PRIME MINISTER, OR FOREIGN MINISTER TO VISIT ROK. HE FELT ON-SITE VIEW OF ROK ECONOMIC DIVERSITY AND GROWTH WOULD BE CONVINCING. CHI REPORTED SENGHOR HAD TOLD JAPANESE HE MIGHT VISIT TOKYO IN 1979 AND ROK ENVOY THOUGHT SEOUL CONCEIVABLY COULD BE ADDED.

7. COMMENT: ROK SEEMS TO BE MAKING PROGRESS WITH ITS SYSTEMATIC, DIRECT APPROACH TO GOS OFFICIALS IN DAKAR. THERE HAVE BEEN SEVERAL HIGH-LEVEL DELEGATIONS IN PAST YEAR AND USEFUL

OVERALL EFFECT IS CLEAR MESSAGE THAT KOREAN PROBLEM CONCERNS AND
IS CONDITIONED BY KOREAN PEOPLES' INTERESTS AND DESIRES AND IS NOT
MERELY FUNCTION OF US STRATEGIC INTERESTS IN PACIFIC.
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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